7/1982

Ypsilanti - Depot Town 1982

"ALL THE NEWS YOU REALLY NEED TO KNOW"

FREE THE DEPOT TOWN RAG

Depot Town Association
Next regular meeting
Thurs. **August 19** | 7:30 p.m.
In DTA CABOOSE
400 Market Place

Depot Town Retail Marchants
Next regular meeting
Tues, **August 17th** | 7:30 p.m

RAG REPORT

Whatever happened to the July Rag? It seems that while celebrating the signing of the Declaration of Independence with a case of Stroh's Signature, the *Rag* staff decided to forgo the July issue and publish a larger *Rag* combining July and August for an expanded Heritage Festival issue. Bursting with 8 pages of good news and bad jokes, the *Jaugust Rag* will hit the streets in about the middle of the month. Included will be the lowdown on the June 12th Frog Island Jazzfest, Boomer Days, Doug Rideout's Depot Town movie, Heritage Festival happenings, a couple of new businesses, depot, bridge and park progress, and possibly the first *Rag* poster, suitable for framing or starting that summer barbeque. Then why is this *Rag* so small? Only 2 pages instead of 6, 250 copies instead of 1,000.

Why bother? Why not save it for the next *Rag*? That would mean 2 months between issues, and when you're on the *Rag* a missed month can be *nerve-wracking*. Hence, this *Rag*, in which we say goodbye and good luck to a good friend, and welcome new ones.

A park to be proud of, a bridge to beware of, and our usual boasting and bitching is reason enough for this abbreviated edition. A couple of things worth mentioning that shouldn't get "lost" in the upcoming 3,000 copy-8 page issue. A few things we thought those who care should know — in a small, intimate issue. We wanted this *Rag* to be for the folks in the neighborhood and those who visit regularly.

O.K. Let's Level.

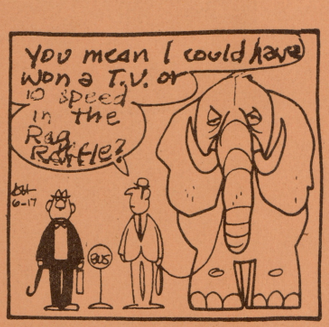
You want the real reasons? Raffle tickets. That's right. We're selling raffle tickets. And what a raffle it is. First prize, from Depot Town's Huron Valley T.V., is a brand new 19" RCA Color T.V. The second prize, from the Sidetrack Bar and Ypsi Cycle at 207 W. Cross, is a new Sekai 10 speed bicycle.

Not bad, eh?

Since we've started this *Rag*, we have expanded from 4 to 6 pages and from 500 monthly copies to 750 to 1,000. There has been no cost increase to our Depot Town advertisers and, in keeping with the adage that you get what you pay for, the *Rag* will continue its *free* distribution.

As mentioned, the August *Rag* will be 3,000 copies filled with 8 pages of *Depot Townia,* more than doubling our normal costs per issue. Ideas are aplenty for future *Rags,* and our main funding will be the raffle. The prizes are now on display at Miller's Ice Cream where, in addition to most other Depot Town shops, you can pick up a raffle ticket for $1.00. Winners will be drawn and announced on Sunday, August 29th at the Depot Town/WEMU Jazz Competition. You needn't be present to win.

Buy yourself a couple of tickets, cross your fingers, and maybe, when our time of the month comes, we won't be so *nervous.*



PYLONS POSE PROBLEM FOR PARK PROGRESS

Riverside Park is looking great these days as workers complete the final steps of Phase 1. The new pathways throughout the park are complete, the octagon shaped deck/stage is almost done, grass and trees are planted, and necessary lighting will be installed shortly to complete the transition.

Changing the plans for the deck/stage was a major hold-up in early July when the rock hard river bed prevented the 40 foot pylons to support the structure from being driven to the necessary depth. Some serious chin stroking led to a solution and progress has since been brisk.

Phase 2 of the park's renovation includes a walkway over the river to Depot Town and a new rest area. Money is tight so there is no projected date for these improvements as yet.

Original plans for Riverside Park that were drawn up in 1978

Originally scheduled for a June 29th completion date, Phase 1 will be finished in time for the Heritage Festival.

WAITE TO JOIN ARTRAIN

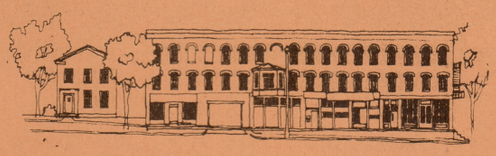
After the May-June 1981 hoopla about the Michigan Artrain returning to Depot Town for the second time in ten years, *The Rag* finally has an opportunity to write one of those "Man Bites Dog" stories: Depot Town Joins the Artrain! . . . in the person of John Waite, our resident railroad expert, sharing his expertise with the Michigan Artrain as Staff Technician for its 1982 tour.

John is on board beginning mid-July at the Artrain's winter quarters on the Selfridge Air Force Base near Mt. Clemens where his first duties will include mechanical preparations, upgrading the rolling stock, reconditioning, painting and decorating. When the new exhibit is installed, the first stop will be in Gaylord on September first. The 1982 tour will include several other Michigan cities and wind up in Roanoake, Virginia with a possible southern route extended into December.

John Waite's rail fannery has contributed much to the quality of life in Depot Town: the acquisition of the 100-year-old caboose, the rehabilitation of the Freight House, the Save The Depot Task Force, stopping Amtrak for Detroit tourists during this August's Heritage Festival and current negotiations to bring one of the largest steam locomotives ever built to Depot Town for its permanent address.

John's projects will continue and Artrain is better off for his enthusiasm and experience.

RAGTIME



• The D.T.A. would like to pad its membership list. 10 bucks will get you a one-year membership, a nifty membership card, and the satisfaction of helping Depot Town stay on the right track. In addition, a uniformed government employee will personally bring a copy of the Depot Town Rag to your home each month. Your check can be sent to 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197.

• The Depot Town/WEMU Heritage Festival Jazz Competition will feature a super line-up of performers who have already signed up for the 3-day continuous *free* event. Live entertainment is just one of hundreds of events in store at this month's festival, featured in Depot Town, Riverside Park, the Washington St. promenade, and undoubtely on most street corners.

• A welcome addition to our block will be The Deli Shoppe, opening in mid-fall at 17 E. Cross. Owner-operator Betty Beck is moving her 10-year-old operation to Depot Town from her present location on Washington, south of Forest.

•New on the block as of July 7th, is Gosa's Creative Photography Studio at 6 E. Cross, just east of the bridge. Owner-photographer William Gosa Jr. handles the gamut from weddings and portraits to model composites and photo decor. More on Gosa's Photography and The Deli Shoppe in August's Rag.

•Jim Bradley of J&J Plastercraft Shop at 21 E. Cross is about to tackle the restoration of the ornate plaster ceiling in the Hoover Mansion in Ann Arbor. No easy task, Jim will be glad to discuss similar projects of your own.

• Downtown Ypsilanti presents the "Apple Harvest Weekend" October 1, 2, and 3rd. Five area orchards are involved with the sponsorship of this first annual event.

THANKS, BUT NO THANKS

First of all, thanks to the City for putting the twenty-four half barrels on the Cross Street Bridge and then thanks to the Department of Public Works for filling them with dirt and planting soil.

Thanks, also, to the many who contributed cash for flowers at the June Depot Town Association meeting around the farm wagon. And thanks to Ciccarelli's Greenhouse for the pick-up truck load of flowers which we are sure amounted to much more than we collected.

Thanks to the neighborhood kids who helped plant all those barrels and to those who helped water them regularly with a pail and a forty-foot rope . . . PULLING THE WATER UP FROM THE Huron River. It was a great hot day project between rains.

The whole project was lots of fun and even city kids can look forward to late summer harvests . . . but it didn't last.

No thanks to the slob who spent time on the night of July 13th and pulled out all the flowers and (we suspect) dumped them in the river.

We wonder if they had as much fun tearing them out as we did planting them. So there sit 20 empty barrels.

• The Health Emporium is expanding to include a general merchandise line including tissue, canned goods, etc. to compliment their outstanding selection of what's good for you.

• The Ann Arbor News has just opened their first Ypsilanti office in the Ladies' Library Building on Huron Street. In addition to handling subscriptions and advertising, the Ypsilanti office will be on top of the events and news items happening in our neck of the woods.

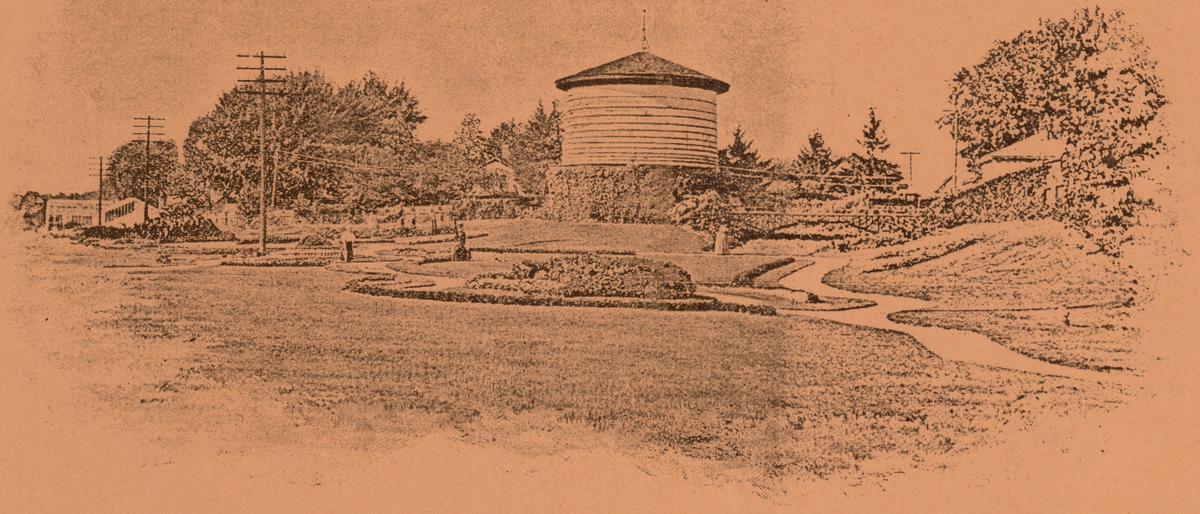
• Linda Lemke walked away with the first place award in the "Pearl of the China Sea" category at the Huron Valley Rose Show held June 20th at the Ann Arbor Botanical Gardens.

• Once again Ypsilanti can give itself the proverbial pat on the back for the tasteful literature advertising this year's Heritage Festival. A stand out is the elegantly designed poster by Ypsilanti resident Marcia McMillen. Marcia also designed the poster for the Depot Town Jazz Competition which you will be seeing around town soon.

• Need some help around the house this summer? High school students in need of summer work from full-time positions to occasional lawn mowing and window washing are available to you at minimal cost at the Ypsilanti Area Social Agencies Forum. For more information, call 482-4414.

• An all day jazz concert in June, a 7-day carnival in July, and the Franzen Brothers Circus in August has resulted in a lot of folks discovering Frog Island for the first time. A low-key sign at the top of the steps will appear in the near future to identify Depot Town's best kept secret.

• Cross Street Bridge update: walk, don't run.



HOT HOUSE AND GROUNDS, M. C. DEPOT, YPSILANTI, MICH.